

Shagbark Hickory

Carya ovata



Description: Medium to a large tree to 100 feet tall 2 through 3 feet diameter with a narrow often rectangular open crown of large branches, trunk straight with shaggy bark. Leaves alternate, compound. Fruit a large nut with a thick woody husk

Leaves: alternate on a twig to 1 foot long, singly compound with 5 to 7 smooth typically 5, ladder-like leaflets with fine saw tooth edges. Terminal three leaflets are much larger than others. Bright yellow to brown and fall

Bark: Gray, medium thickness, on mature trees bark breaks into very hard thin plates which are free from the trunk at one or both ends, giving a shaggy appearance

Flowers: unisexual on the same tree. Male flowers on long 4 to 5 in, light green, slender, drooping clusters, small female flowers on short spikes at the end

Fruits: large to 1.5 inch diameter, globe-shaped nuts with woody husk to 1/2 in thick. Husk separates completely into four parts at maturity. The nuts pale-colored very hard shell is four angled. Kernel sweet, edible delicious

Habitat/Range: throughout Indiana in woods mixed with Oaks on dryer uplands and slopes occasionally on open sites